

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 10089 261626Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 ACDA-12
IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CCO-00 OC-06 /094 W
-----045777 261631Z /41

O O 261618Z JUN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7542
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10089

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS MOPS YS
SUBJECT: FCO ON FIGHTING IN ADEN

1. FCO HAS GIVEN US FIRST DESCRIPTION OF FIGHTING IN
ADEN REPORTED BY BRITISH EMBASSY THERE, JUNE 26, AS
FOLLOWS: FORCES NORMALLY CONSIDERED TO BE UNDER PARTY,
PEOPLE'S MILITIA, POPULAR DEFENSE COMMITTEE, AND
PEOPLE'S POLICE HAVE SURROUNDED SALEM RUBAYI ALI WITH A
FEW SUPPORTERS IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE PALACE. EARLY
IN THE MORNING NAVAL UNITS WERE OBSERVED SHELLING THE

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE. MIG AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN IN
ACTION STRAFING AND POSSIBLY BOMBING THE PALACE AREA.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 10089 261626Z

2. THE FIGHTING IS CONFINED TO THE TAWAHI-STEAMER POINT
AREA. ONE BRITISH SUBJECT SAW 40 BODIES ON STRETCHERS.
THE AIRPORT IS UNDER ARMED GUARD. THERE ARE NO ARMED
MEN AND NO SIGN OF CIVIL UNREST IN THE DIPLOMATIC/
RESIDENTIAL QUARTER OF KHORMAKSAR; BRITISH, DIPLOMATIC,
AND UN PERSONNEL ALL APPEAR TO BE SAFE. OIL REFINERY
IS STILL WORKING.

3. FCO COMMENT: FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPT OFFICERS ASSUME THAT ABDUL FATTAH ISMAIL WAS BEHIND BOTH THE ASSASSINATION OF GHASHMI AND THE COUP IN ADEN, THAT ISMAIL TRIED TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT ALI WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION, AND THAT THE TWO DEVELOPMENTS ARE INTER-RELATED. FCO OFFICIALS AGREE WITH OUR ASSUMPTION THAT SOVIET UNION WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY IF ISMAIL'S COUP SUCCEEDS.

BREWSTER

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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